

Cover Letter

Preface (How to Use This Document)

Table of Contents

PROJECT I.D. 1206-07-03, SPES-F, NH 04 ()
UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 18/151
 CTH PD to USH 12
UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 12/14
 USH 14 to Todd Drive
 Dane County, Wisconsin

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(C) AND 49 U.S.C. 303)

BY THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
 AND
STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

APPROVALS

March 4, 2004
 Date

March 5, 2004
 Date

Eugene Johnson
 For the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Johnny M. Gerbitz
 For the Federal Highway Administration

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ABSTRACT

US 151 (Verona Road) is a principle arterial that serves through movements to and from southwestern Wisconsin. It is classified as a Backbone Route in the Corridors 2020 state highway plan. This 2 mile section of US 151 is the only urbanized roadway portion of the Backbone corridor spanning from Fond du Lac Wisconsin to Dubuque Iowa. The Beltline, or US 12/14, is a circumferential primary arterial that serves the expanding Madison metropolitan area. US 12/14 is classified as a Connector Route in the state highway plan. The growing Madison metropolitan area and associated traffic volumes are causing increasing congestion on US 151 and on US 12/14. This project seeks to:

- § Enhance the mobility of motorized travel in the US 151 backbone corridor to operation levels that are consistent with a Corridors 2020 Backbone Route.
- § Preserve the mobility of motorized travel in the US 12/14 corridor to levels that are consistent with a Corridors 2020 Connector Route.
- § Enhance nonmotorized travel accommodations and connectivity in both the US 151 and the US 12/14 corridors.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS ARE DUE BY MAY 14, 2004, OR 45 DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY IS PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER, WHICHEVER IS LATER, AND SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Ms. Rose Phetteplace, District Director
Wisconsin Department of Transportation - District One
2101 Wright Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53704-2583

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT STATEMENT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USH 12 4321-4347, became effective January 1, 1970. This law requires that all federal agencies have prepared for every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Federal Highway Administration is, therefore, required to have prepared an EIS on proposals that are funded under its authority if the proposal is determined to be a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

EISs are required for many transportation projects as outlined in NEPA. The processing of an EIS is carried out in two stages. Draft EISs are first written and forwarded for review and comment to federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise and are made available to the public. This availability to the public must occur at least 15 days before the public hearing and not later than the time of the first public hearing notice or notice of opportunity for a hearing. Normally, 45 days plus mailing time will be allowed for comments to be made on Draft EIS unless a time extension is granted by the Director of the Bureau of Environment (Wisconsin Department of Transportation). After this period has elapsed, preparation of the Final EIS can begin.

Final EISs are prepared to reflect the distribution of the Draft Statement by including the following:

1. Basic content of the Draft Statement as amended due to internal agency comments, editing, additional alternatives being considered, and changes due to the time lag between the Draft and Final EIS.
2. Summary of public hearing environmental comments.
3. Summary of comments received on the Draft Statement.
4. Evaluation and disposition of each substantive comment.

Administrative action cannot take place sooner than 90 days after circulation of the Draft Statement to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or 30 days after submittal of the Final Statement to the EPA.

Both the Draft and Final EIS are full disclosure documents which provide a full description of the proposed project, the existing environment, and analysis of the anticipated beneficial or adverse environmental effects.